

Filed for intro on 05/17/1999

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 250
By Ridgeway

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. Robert M. Smith, Dean of the
College of Arts and Sciences at the University of
Tennessee at Martin.

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the members of this General Assembly should
pause to honor those Tennesseans who are celebrating milestones in their venerable lives; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert M. Smith is one such individual who is richly deserving of the
special commendation of this body; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith has exhibited uncommon integrity, diligence, and compassion in
service to the citizens of this state, and to the faculty, staff, and students of the University of
Tennessee at Martin; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith has been the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at the
University of Tennessee at Martin since 1987; it was with great sadness that we learned of his
intent to leave UT-Martin after twelve years of alacritous service and accept the position of
Provost at Slippery Rock State University in Pennsylvania, as Dean Smith will be sorely missed;
and

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WHEREAS, Dean Smith has spent over twenty-eight years in higher education as a faculty member and administrator, and twenty years as an advisor and consultant to corporate and government leaders throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, Robert M. Smith received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Communication at Wichita State University in 1967 and his Master of Arts degree in Interpersonal Communication at Ohio University in 1968. Dean Smith's Ph.D. is in Social Conflict and Communication Theory from Temple University; and

WHEREAS, He taught at Ohio University and Wichita State University and coached debate at Princeton University. His research work includes more than sixty publications and scholarly presentations and he currently serves on the editorial boards of three academic journals; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith has won two national awards for teaching excellence from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and has been featured in *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*, *Who's Who in American Education*, *Who's Who in Finance and Industry*, and *Who's Who Among Emerging Leaders in the United States*. He is also a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha, Phi Theta Kappa, and Phi Eta Sigma national honoraries; and

WHEREAS, he is the lead faculty member of the Tennessee Government Executive Institute and a faculty member for an executive management program at the University of North Texas; and

WHEREAS, for five years, Dr. Smith was on the faculty of the University of Kentucky and the IBM Management Leadership Program. For two years he served as Chair of Eastern Airlines Corporate Communication Advisory Board. In 1980-81, he received a Fellowship to the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he received both a departmental award and citation for his work in management and public affairs communication; and

WHEREAS, in 1995 the National Association for Community Leadership presented Dean Smith with its *Distinguished Leadership Award* and, this year, he was one of five recipients of the Preceptor Award given by the National Association for Community Leadership; and

WHEREAS, along with his many accomplishments already listed, this talented gentleman is the organizer and director of *Leadership UTM*, the creator and executive director of *WestNet*, and is also known statewide as the creator and executive director of the *WestStar* Program, the first regional leadership program in Tennessee which serves twenty-two counties in West Tennessee and has been used as a model across our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, in the last ten years, Bob has personally developed eighteen new leadership programs in cities and counties in Tennessee and Kentucky and is currently active in leadership development projects in 86 of Tennessee's 95 counties; and

WHEREAS, over twenty additional programs have been created as a result of his prodigious efforts, with more than 4,000 graduates and well over one million dollars committed to leadership education through these programs; and

WHEREAS, Bob's work and success in building community leadership programs in rural areas led the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development to now require an active community leadership program in order to receive the prestigious state certification as a prepared community; and

WHEREAS, all of Bob's leadership development activities in Tennessee are unpaid and volunteer commitments. Since 1989, he has logged over 150,000 miles as a part of his dedication to helping people achieve their potential and find control over their own destinies; and

WHEREAS, his many honors and achievements aside, Dr. Robert M. Smith is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his lovely wife, Ramona, and their two children, Angie and David, who are both UT-Martin graduates; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. Robert M. Smith for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its students; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Dr. Robert M. Smith for his lasting commitment to Tennessee's future and for his service as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin. We extend to him our best wishes for every future success, as he will certainly be missed as a professor and administrator at UTM and as a friend to the good people of West Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.